



Docket No. 0430-0160P

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### CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority from European Patent Application No. 00 117 108.1 filed August 9, 2000.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention relates to an apparatus and method for packaging objects using a hose-shaped stretch foil guided axially with respect to the stretch foil and along a length of an object to be packaged, e.g., such as a palletized stack of goods. Such apparatuses and methods are used in particular for packaging stacks of goods arranged on pallets in order to give protection to the stack of goods during transport against humidity and other environmental influences in case of using a foil hood. Moreover, the wrapping of the stack of goods with a foil hood or a band stock allots increased stability to the packaging unit, since the foil hood and/or band stock is stretched in horizontal and vertical direction when pulled over the stack of goods and after having been pulled over the stack of goods, exerts a pressure on the stack of goods and the pallet with tension.

[0003] From DE 39 21 190 C2 an apparatus is known for packaging objects in a hose-shaped plastic foil, in which a foil hood is reefed on gripper device arranged on a vertical frame. Subsequently, the gripper device are moved apart in horizontal direction, this stretching the foil hood in horizontal direction. Shafts adjustable with respect to the gripper device and driven are provided for on the frames and a continuously circulating band which is in contact with the outer surface of the shaft is arranged on each gripper device, Due to the rotational movement of the shaft in one direction, the foil can

Substitute Specification  
Approved - ~~9/2/05~~